

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VICTOR 00394 060022Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 /086 W

-----030729 060034Z /62

P 041045Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0876

INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY LONDONR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0394

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LONDON ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES GOVERNMENT DECLINES TO PROSECUTE TREASON
CHARGES; DETENTION ORDERS SERVED ON 21 SEYCHELLOIS

REF: VICTORIA 388 (DTG 030751Z MAY 78)

1. TWENTY-ONE SEYCHELLOIS ACCUSED MAY 02 OF TREASON AGAINST
THE STATE, A CAPITAL OFFENSE IN SEYCHELLES, HAVE, FOR TIME
BEING AT LEAST, HAD CHARGES AGAINST THEM WITHDRAWN AND BEEN
SERVED WITH DETENTION ORDERS OF INDEFINITE DURATION UNDER
REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC SECURITY GAZETTED YESTERDAY.
(SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT MEASURES CONTAINED IN NEW REGULATIONS
REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.)

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2. ACCORDING TWO LOCAL ATTORNEYS WHO ARE REPRESENTING THOSE
ACCUSED, BERNARD RASSOOL OF ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE APPEARED IN
COURT AND INFORMED REGISTRAR THAT STATE WAS NOT PREPARED TO
BRING PRISONERS TO COURT AS SCHEDULED (REFTTEL) AND THAT CHARGE
OF TREASON (WHICH WOULD HAVE REQUIRED SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE)
WOULD NOT BE PRESSED AT THIS TIME. ATTORNEYS BELIEVE THAT

GOVERNMENT DECISION TO DETAIN ACCUSED PRISONERS RATHER THAN PROSECUTE THEM WAS BASED ON INABILITY OF STATE TO PRODUCE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO EFFECTIVELY PROSECUTE CASES. MATTER IS OUT OF JURISDICTION OF COURT SYSTEM AND ATTORNEYS BELIEVE IT WILL REMAIN SO.

3. AT 0930, ATTORNEYS WENT TO UNION VALE PRISON WHERE DETAINEES ARE BEING HELD AND WERE INFORMED BY PRISON WARDEN THAT DETENTION ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED ON ALL PRISONERS. ATTORNEYS WERE DENIED ACCESS TO THEIR CLIENTS.
MATTSON

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Message Attributes

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